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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,615	09/27/2001	Masakazu Hirano	09412.65876	7774
7590	08/17/2004			EXAMINER NEGRON, DANIELL L
Patrick G. Burns, Esq. GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD. Suite 2500 300 South Wacker Dr. Chicago, IL 60606			ART UNIT 2651	PAPER NUMBER 7
DATE MAILED: 08/17/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/965,615	HIRANO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Daniell L. Negrón	2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-12 and 14-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-12 and 14-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 9-12, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527.

Regarding claim 11, Uchiike et al disclose a storage apparatus comprising a load/unload mechanism, which carries out a ramp load/unload operation to load/unload a head (4) which is provided on an arm (3) with respect to a recording medium (1) by a driving part e.g. voice coil motor (5), which drives the arm (See Fig. 4 and column 3, lines 41-63).

Uchiike et al also disclose a controller e.g. CPU (10) controlling a driving current which is supplied to the driving part so as to undergo a gradual change during at least one of a load operation for a head feed operation which feeds the head toward the recording medium, and an unload operation as the unload operation is completed (see Fig. 4 and Response to Arguments for details).

Regarding claim 1, method claim 1 is drawn to the method of using the corresponding apparatus claimed in claim 11. Therefore method claim 1 corresponds to apparatus claim 11 and is rejected for the same reasons of anticipation as used above.

Regarding claims 2, 9, 10, 12, 20, and 21, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 20, and 21 are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the prior Office action mailed on December 5, 2003, paper no. 4 (see Response to Arguments).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527 in view of Ito U.S. Patent No. 5,315,455.

Regarding claims 4 and 14, claims 4 and 14 are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the prior Office action mailed on December 5, 2003, paper no. 4 (see Response to Arguments).

5. Claims 5, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527 in view of Huang et al U.S. Patent No. 6,583,964.

Regarding claims 5, 15, and 17, claims 5, 15, and 17 are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the prior Office action mailed on December 5, 2003, paper no. 4 (see Response to Arguments).

6. Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527 in view of Ito U.S. Patent No. 5,315,455 as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Huang U.S. Patent No. 6,583,964.

Regarding claims 6 and 16, claims 6 and 16 are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the prior Office action mailed on December 5, 2003, paper no. 4 (see Response to Arguments).

7. Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527 in view of Phan et al U.S. Patent No. 5,760,992.

Regarding claims 7 and 18, claim 7 and 18 are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the prior Office action mailed on December 5, 2003, paper no. 4 (see Response to Arguments).

8. Claims 8 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527 in view of Koizumi et al U.S. Patent No. 5,982,570.

Regarding claims 8 and 19, claim 8 and 19 are rejected for the same reasons discussed in the prior Office action mailed on December 5, 2003, paper no. 4 (see Response to Arguments).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed June 7, 2004 (paper no. 5) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 11, Applicant on pages 8 and 9 of the response filed on June 7, 2004 (paper no. 5) argues that Uchiike et al U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527 fail to show the limitations of the claims since the current output of the voice coil motor (VCM) disclosed by Uchiike et al undergoes a sharp change in current during a loading and a unloading operation. Examiner respectfully disagrees since Uchiike et al shows a driving current undergoing a gradual change during a loading operation represented by element C1 in Figure 4(a) and a driving current undergoing a gradual change during an unloading operation represented by element C2 in Figure 4(b) as claimed in claim 11 and corresponding method claim 1. Therefore it is considered that the device disclosed by Uchiike et al controls a driving current so as to undergo a gradual change during at least one of a load operation (C1) for a head feed operation which feeds the head

towards the disk (column 6, lines 10-14), and an unload operation (C2) as the unload operation is completed (column 6, lines 18-20).

Regarding claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 14-21 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the same reasons discussed in the previous Office action since claims are dependent on independent claims 1 and 11.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniell L. Negrón whose telephone number is 703-305-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30-6:00) Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh N. Tran can be reached on 703-305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2651

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DLN 
August 12, 2004


SINH TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER